

HOUSE BILL 1852

By Bone

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4; Title 49, Chapter 9 and Title 63, Chapter 12, relative to financial aid for veterinary medicine students.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The University of Tennessee shall study, within existing resources, the feasibility of establishing a veterinary loan-scholarship program at the University of Tennessee college of veterinary medicine in order to provide encouragement, opportunities, and incentives for persons pursuing a veterinary medicine degree program at the University of Tennessee college of veterinary medicine to locate their veterinary practices in underserved rural Tennessee communities and receive specialized training targeted to meet the needs of livestock producers and rural Tennessee communities.

SECTION 2. In conducting such study, the University of Tennessee shall consider the following topics relative to a loan-scholarship program for veterinary medicine students and make appropriate recommendations to implement its findings relative to such topics:

- (1) Qualifications and preferences for admission into the veterinary medicine loan-scholarship program;
- (2) Advanced or specialized training, including internships and mentoring, to be required of loan-scholarship recipients; and
- (3) Terms of the loan-scholarship agreement, including, but not limited to:
 - (A) Terms and obligations for satisfaction of the agreement or repayment of the loan if the recipient fails to satisfy the agreement;
 - (B) Penalties for failure of the recipient to satisfy the agreement or otherwise repay the loan; and

(C) The time period during and the parameters within which the recipient is required to practice veterinary medicine in an underserved area of rural Tennessee in order to satisfy the agreement.

SECTION 3. The University of Tennessee shall report its findings and recommendations relative to such study, including any proposed legislation, to the General Assembly no later than February 1, 2008.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.